

Denatured Alcohol.

We have mentioned the fact that an effort was being made to have the tax taken off from alcohol which had been rendered unfit to drink, or denatured or denaturalized as it is called.

Two items from Farm, Field and Fireside will show something of what the law is expected to do for the farmers:

Congressman Murdock, of Kansas, is working for free denatured alcohol. In his speech on the floor of the house a few days ago he said: "Actual tests have demonstrated that alcohol at thirty cents per gallon is cheaper for light than kerosene at fifteen cents per gallon. Twenty cent alcohol would drive ten cent kerosene down in price or out of the market. For engines twenty cent alcohol would bring thirty cent gasoline down to twenty cents." In his remarks he enumerated the uses for which vapor engines have become noted and the list is a long one, covering many manufactured products and a great variety of uses in farm work. Mr. Murdock estimates that free alcohol would result in the manufacture of one hundred thousand alcohol engines the first year.

Vapor Engines.—It is the intention of the Grange that farmers of the United States shall furnish the material to run their own and their neighbor's engines. The multiplicity of gasoline engines during the past ten years has opened up a new field of enterprise. Every farmer needs a small motive power and the vapor engines seem to fill the bill, but the great Standard Oil trust has been quick to recognize an opportunity to make extra profits on gasoline. The price has been advanced until it is almost prohibitory.

Alcohol is a better vaporizing material for power purposes than gasoline. It is more powerful and nicer to handle. A great advantage to the farmer is that alcohol may be made from small potatoes and other forms of vegetation grown on a farm. It may be manufactured at home or near by as the apparatus is not expensive.

At present there is an internal revenue tax of \$2.07 per gallon which, of course, prohibits its use for manufacturing purposes. German chemists have invented processes whereby alcohol may be cheaply denaturalized, thus rendering it unfit for internal consumption, but the process does not interfere with its value for power or lighting purposes.

England, France and Germany have free alcohol for use in the mechanic arts. Its manufacture is encouraged in those countries. It would be in the United States only for the great influence exerted by the Standard Oil and the wood alcohol trusts. Each farmer in the United States should interest himself in this question and ascertain the views of his congressman and senator representatives on the subject. He should go further and let them know his own views and how he expects them to work for his interest.

In addition to the above an editorial from the Louisiana Planter gives some farther information on the present situation. If you are interested, write both senators from your state and urge them to help this bill along by all means in their power.

Free Alcohol.—The final passage of

the free alcohol bill through the House of Representatives in Washington on Monday, the 16th inst., developed some queer features. Earlier in the engagement there was a promise of very severe opposition, but the imperative demand for free alcohol for use in the arts was such that those congressmen who were hesitating about how they should vote quickly found out that their constituents were in earnest in the matter and wanted free alcohol, denaturalized sufficiently to prevent any improper use of the commodity and any interference with the revenues of the country.

Representative Young, of Michigan, pictured the dreadful suffering of his constituents who were engaged in the manufacture of wood alcohol and who would be injured by the now-promised free alcohol to be made from molasses, grain, etc., although it would be denaturalized. The opponents of the bill seemed to sink into silence and the bill went through without any filibustering, even John Sharpe Williams, of Mississippi, stating that the bill met with his hearty approval. The final vote in the House was 224 yeas and 7 nays. It is thought that although the bill may meet with some active opposition in the Senate, the unanimous desire of the country for free alcohol for use in the arts will lead the Senate to a recognition of this demand, and that there will not be any successful opposition to the measure there.

The first shipment of pineapples from Delray for this season netted the grower, J. S. Sundry \$3.50 a crate in Jacksonville.—St. Augustine Record.

The strawberry crop now is the absorbing theme at Starke. Such a crop and such continued high prices are record breakers. Over eight thousand dollars paid during one day at the depot in Starke and promise of still greater daily picking for some time to come is very gratifying to the growers.—Green Cove Spring.

Last week we met a traveling man from Starke, who informed us that the receipts for strawberries at that place would average over \$50,000 a week—over \$5,000 a day. There is no reason why our people could not make just as good a thing out of the same industry here. It would just simply be the making of the place. We want to see every man who is situated so he can put out a crop of strawberries next year.—Macclenny Standard.

A bunch of tropical yams, grown together and attached to one set of vines, was dug out at Avon Park last week, on the premises of W. H. Daugherty, and on being weighed tipped the scales at 44 pounds. They had been growing between two and three years. As a food supply the tropical yam is hard to beat, especially if it is well baked. Then it comes out white and mealy and equal in flavor to the best Irish potato that ever grew.—Gainesville Sun.

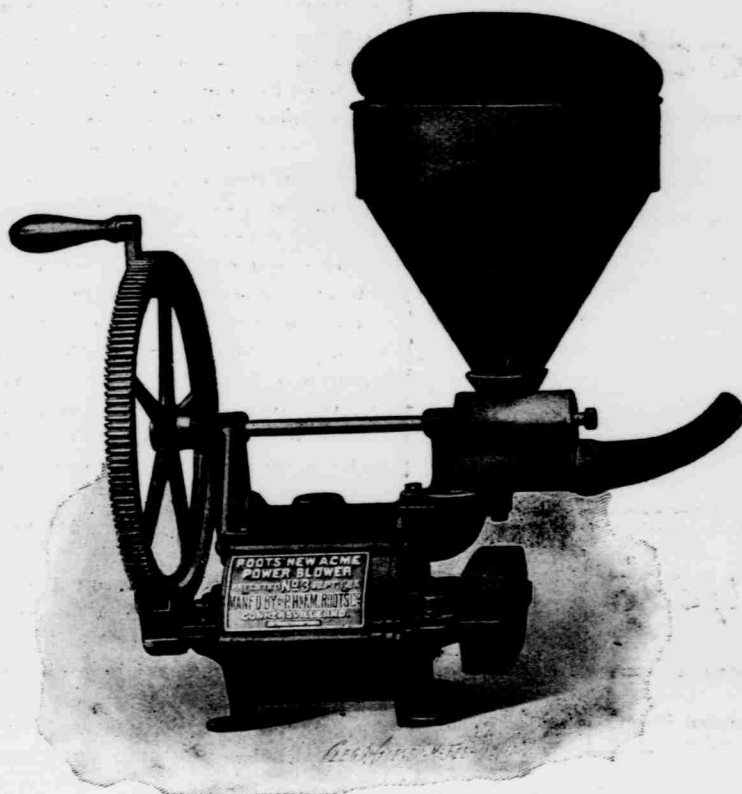
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